

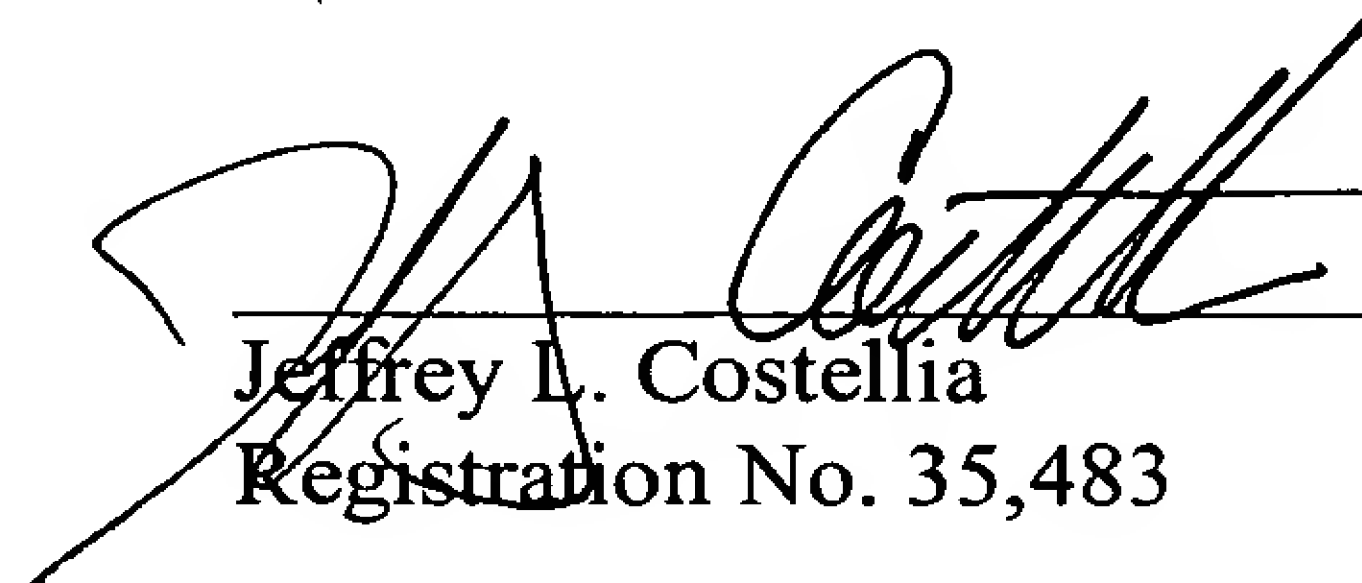
REMARKS

The Office Action of March 29, 2004 was received and carefully reviewed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the currently pending rejections are requested for the reasons advanced in detail below.

Claims 42-86 are currently pending in the instant application and are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 34, 36, 38, 40-42, 44-46 and 48 of co-pending Application No. 09/438,581 alone or in combination with secondary references. The cited co-pending Application No. 09/438,581 is currently pending and under a rejection mailed on April 30, 2004 to which a response has not yet been filed. Since the only rejections remaining in the instant application are "provisional" double patenting rejections based ultimately on co-pending Application No. 09/438,581, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw this rejection and permit the instant application to issue as a patent, as provided in M.P.E.P. 804 (p. 800-19). As a result, the instant application should be in a condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of record be reconsidered and withdrawn by the Examiner, that claims 42-86 be allowed and that the application be passed to issue. If a conference would expedite prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,



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